

RELEASE

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New Protective Shed Opens at Locust Point

(Baltimore) – On Saturday August 16, the painting and signage were completed and on Sunday August 17, the employees of Balterm at South Locust Point began unloading the Finnish ship *Scheldegrecht* of its paper goods. The latest investment by Maryland taxpayers at the behest of the Maryland Port Administration has translated into a 100,000 square foot protective shed, fortifying the Port of Baltimore's number one position in the import of forest products. It guarantees an additional 100,000 tons of paper rolls over the next twelve months.

Not only has the new facility been built without any interior pillars or posts, but the building is situated adjacent to the pier so that products move directly from the hold of the vessel to under cover, dispensing with intermediary handling. Railroad cars pull in on the far side of the warehouse, enabling products to quickly ship to their respective manufacturers.

Known as a "first point of rest transit shed," the \$4.5 million structure was made possible by a partnership of European paper producers and shippers to utilize one central terminal, and the MPA's commitment to provide a first-class facility. The proximity of the shed to ship and rail diminishes the chances for damage by reducing the number of times these fragile materials are handled. Its 30-foot high eaves allow the loads to be stacked as high as their weight can bear or the tractor can reach.

UPM Kymmene's rolls of paper from the *Scheldegrecht* are converted into various quality magazine pages for all types of publications. For example, the inserts people find in their Sunday newspapers from coast to coast come from this imported European product.

Work is expected to begin soon on another shed, adjacent to this one, measuring 300,000 square feet. Its scheduled completion date is January 2005.

It will mark another milestone in the growth of Maryland's port, soon to celebrate its 300th anniversary. As the closest U.S. Atlantic seaport to major mid-Western destinations, the port's location and renowned workforce make it a prime distribution center.

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